introduction of magnetic rail called M-BAHN ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) by when it is likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Railway Board has set up a study group to consider various issues involved in introducing a Rapid Transit System in the cities. A view in the matter will be taken by the Government after receipt of the recommendations of the study group.

Freight Equalisation in Railways

†1056. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the freight equalisation in Railways in respect of coal and steel deprives most backward regions of India namely Bihar, Eastern U.P., Orissa and Bengal of the advantages of location ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

†Previously Unstarred Question 444 transferred from the 23rd July, 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) There is no scheme of freight equalisation for Coal. The scheme of freight equalisation is pplicable to iron and steel. The States in the eastern region are deprived of the locational advantage only to the extent of the freight in excess of the normal railway freight for transporting iron and steel.

(c) The Government have already decided in principle to phase out the freight equalisation scheme.

Delay in Implementation of Major Steel Projects

§1057. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent the implementation of major steel projects in the country has been delayed and what is the extent of cost escalation as against the original estimates in respect of each of the projects and

(b) what factors are responsible for the delay in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government to remove the constraints in completion of these projects according to the revised schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) Details are given in the Annexure.

§Previously Unstarred Question 464 transferred from the 24th July, 1986.

(b) Some of the major reasons that caused delay in project implementation have been inadequate project preparation, time taken in tender appraisal, absence of an integrated project management team, poor performance of suppliers and contractors, lack of assured flow of funds and time taken in obtaining import clearances.

While the on-going projects are sought to be completed within the periods indicated in the Annexure by intensive monitoring [See Appendix XXXIX Annexure No. 63] Government is taking steps to ensure that some of the major reasons which delayed projects in the past do not recur in the future. Greater emphasis will be placed on detailed project preparation, formulation of an integrated project management team with full delegated powers, continuity of the head of the project team from conception to commissioning of the project cutting down of time for tender appraisals, import clearances and release of foreign exchange. Stricter contracts will be entered into with imposition of high penalties for non-performance. It is expected that with these proposed measures, new projects to be taken up will not witness the same delays as are witnessed in some of the on-going projects.

Amount spent on Advertisements by Central Government/D.A.V.P.

1058. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the actual amount spent on advertisements in Hindi and other Indian language dailies/periodicals vis-a-vis English dailies/periodicals by the Central Government/DAVP during the last three years ; and

(b) whether there is any policy in regard to differential allotment of advertisements to the language and English dailies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): (a) The amount spent on advertisements issued by D.A.V.P. on behalf of various ministries/departments (except Railways) during the last three years is as under, yearwise:—

S.No.	Language	Amount 1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
1.	Hindi . . .	Rs. 1,26,24,664	Rs. 1,44 00,120	Rs. 1,36,93,597
2.	Other Indian Languages . . .	Rs. 1,76,10,292	Rs. 1,83,41,672	Rs. 1,83,89,920
		Rs. 3,02,34,956	Rs. 3,27,41,792	Rs. 3,20,83,517
3.	English . .	Rs. 88,08,870	Rs. 1,08,01,184	Rs. 1,33,57,542
	Grand Total	Rs. 3,90,43,826	Rs. 4,35,42,976	Rs. 4,54,41,059

(b) The advertisements are released by D. A. V. P. in a balanced and equitable manner strictly in accordance with the Advertising Policy of the Government of India and with a view to securing the widest possible coverage to the publicity efforts of the Government within the available financial resources.